

Peres questions need for settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has questioned the wisdom of maintaining certain Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as Palestinian self-rule begins. But Israel will not be forced into evacuating them, he said. Mr. Peres, asked by Israel Radio if some settlements should be abandoned to secure peace with the Palestinians, said: "Not under the pressure of negotiations." He added: "I'll tell you the truth, there are some questions that have to be asked out loud. What is the point of maintaining a settlement with 28 families that needs workers from Thailand, that needs an army platoon to guard them, need to have their roads guarded by patrols? Where is the logic? What is the point?" Hundreds of thousands are employed as cheap labour on farms because settlers are reluctant to employ Palestinians. Under the September autonomy accord the settlements are to remain during a five-year Palestinian self-rule period. They will be subject to negotiation during final status talks to begin two years after the start of self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jenin.

Volume 18 Number 5536

AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1994, RAMADAN 2, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Juppe to visit Gaza

PARIS (R) — Foreign Minister Alain Juppe leaves for a four-day Middle East tour on Saturday during which he will become the first French minister to visit the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. Mr. Juppe will visit Jordan, Israel and Gaza to underscore France's desire for a successful outcome to the Middle East peace process, a ministry spokesman said. His agenda will include talks about the European Union's economic aid to the occupied territories.

Lebanon announces \$500m road tender

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon announced tenders on Friday for a \$500 million motorway from Beirut to the Syrian border that will link up with an Arab road network from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf. Mohammad Fawaz, head of the state-run Council for Execution of Construction Projects, invited companies to offer tenders for construction of the toll motorway from Beirut to Masnau on the Syrian border. Mr. Fawaz said it would take three years to build the 60-kilometre stretch. It will be linked to an existing highway from Damascus to Amman and the Red Sea ports Aqaba and Jeddah, and another to Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates on the Arabian Gulf. The Lebanese government approved the plans earlier this month but put the cost at \$600 million.

Mandela revisits his island prison

ROBBEN ISLAND (R) — Nelson Mandela made an emotional return on Friday to the Robben Island penal colony where he spent almost a third of his life for fighting apartheid. The visit on the fourth anniversary of his release from 27 years in prison was one of the highlights of Mr. Mandela's election campaign which promises to carry him to the presidency when 300 years of white rule end in April with South Africa's first democratic elections. Mr. Mandela, accompanied by other veteran former political prisoners and a group of journalists, visited the prison on a tiny island 11 kilometres off Cape Town, where he spent 19 of his 27 years of incarceration. He was finally released on Feb. 11, 1990, from Victor Verster prison near Paarl on the mainland near Cape Town.

Lebanon rejects increased KLM flights

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon turned down a request by the Dutch national airlines KLM to increase its weekly flights between Beirut and Amsterdam to seven from three, the director general of Lebanon's civil aviation department said on Friday. Rimon Farhat said in a statement he told visiting Dutch civil aviation officials that increasing KLM's flights would hurt the Lebanese carrier Middle East Airlines (MEA). However, the two sides signed a deal allowing KLM and MEA to carry 400 passengers a week in each direction in 1994. This could be increased to 500 from the summer of 1995.

Snowstorm, ice closes much of U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — An icy winter snowstorm brought Washington and many other parts of the United States to a virtual standstill Friday, shutting down airports, snarling traffic and causing widespread absenteeism at offices. Government offices in the U.S. capital were closed for the day and officials said only essential services were operating in the Washington area. The foul weather, which forecasters said was expected to dump up to a 30 centimetres of snow in the New York area, follows heavy snow and freezing rain that blanketed northeastern states Tuesday and Wednesday and severe weather in the midwest and Texas as well. Up to 23 deaths have been reported as a result of the weather this week.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily

جورنال تأثير يومية سياسية عربية



Thousands attend Al Aqsa prayers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Tens of thousands of Muslim worshippers came to Al Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine in Islam, for Friday prayers marking the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan. Leaflets and speakers used the occasion to condemn the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement. "Prepare yourself for the next stage, and be soldiers of God," shouted an Islamic Jihad activist. The man, wearing the black bandanna marking a warrior, stood on a stone stage in a mosque courtyard and attracted hundreds of listeners. "This state of Israel will be crushed and Islam will win the holy fight against the big satan in Washington and its ally in Tel Aviv," he said. Sheikh Mohammad Hussein, the main speaker for Al Aqsa Mosque, warned the worshippers not to create another civil war as in Lebanon and Afghanistan. "The captive and wounded land must not witness the brothers fighting, learn this lesson from Afghanistan and Lebanon," he said. The Waqf, which runs the holy site that includes the Dome of the Rock, estimated the crowd at 80,000 strong.

Jordan sees no problems with Cairo agreement

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan does not anticipate having any problems with the security related issues entailed in the agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed in Cairo on Wednesday.

Information Minister Jawad Anani told the Jordan Times Friday that because the PLO had signed a security agreement with Jordan in mid-January "we presume that Jordanian security considerations are calculated into the PLO-Israel agreement."

Well-informed Jordanian sources also said that a recent reading of the PLO-Israel document showed it to be "satisfactory."

The sources did not elaborate, but one said that "it appeared to support the Jordanian negotiating position" although a "more thorough reading of the document is needed."

Jordanian officials, although still critical that there was no synchronisation of steps by the PLO with Jordan before reaching the Cairo agreement, were positively encouraged by Mr. Arafat's stopover in Amman to brief King Hussein immediately after the signing of the accord.

The King and Mr. Arafat held a short meeting at the Queen Alia International Airport after which King Hussein said that "coordination and consultations are continuing

(between the PLO and Jordan) and are of the level needed to face the challenges and meet the responsibilities fully."

The King said that Mr. Arafat's visit to Amman "was a good opportunity to brief us on what happened," adding that it was also an opportune time "to reaffirm (to Arafat) that our position has not changed in our absolute and full support for our family and brothers in Palestine and with all our strength and capabilities."

Mr. Arafat told reporters after the meeting that he was "happy and proud to have had this opportunity to discuss with His Majesty many important issues, especially the negotiations that took place in Cairo."

"I have listened to His Majesty's thoughts and ideas on ways to deal with future issues which we must meet as one and through a joint effort," Mr. Arafat said, adding that "this Jordanian-Palestinian family is one that is headed by His Majesty King Hussein and is always under his care."

Dr. Anani, in a telephone interview, said that "coordination has improved" between

(Continued on page 5)

Arafat-Peres accord draws mixed Palestinian reaction

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The agreement initialised in Cairo on Wednesday between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel reflected the great Israeli security concerns which delayed implementation of the Sept. 13 rule accord, political observers said Friday.

For Palestinians, the agreement on Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and Jericho and self-rule was far less than their minimum aspirations, and it drew mixed reaction from PLO officials.

Although people's reaction in general has been cautious, the overall response of many Palestinians was negative.

Supporters of the agreement said that when implemented, the initial impact of the harshness of the text would be softened. This was contested by other PLO officials who said that the negative elements of the Cairo agreement would be revealed upon implementation. They said since many issues

have been left for further negotiation, as was the case of the Oslo agreement, it meant the door may be left open for Israel to renege on implementation as it sees.

Both supporters and opponents of the Cairo deal agreed that like the Oslo agreement, many pitfalls and ambiguities shrouded many of the articles, particularly security issues, despite the immensely detailed security procedures at border crossings. However, supporters said Palestinians had improved many of the Oslo accord's conditions, and Israel has conceded on security issues and on Palestinians' role on border crossings despite the Israeli army's opposition.

"We have made many concessions in the Oslo agreement, but since everything is relevant, we believe we have improved many of the conditions stated in the declaration of principles," said a PLO negotiator.

A Tunis-based PLO official, who negotiated the implementation agreement in

(Continued on page 5)

Ghali must okay Bosnia strikes

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) needs final approval from United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali before it starts air strikes to knock out heavy weapons around Sarajevo after a 10-day ultimatum expires, NATO sources said Friday.

"He (Ghali) has to give his specific authority for the first strike," one source said, clarifying a key point in NATO's announcement Wednesday night that heavy weapons within 20 kilometres of Sarajevo must be pulled out or put under U.N. control.

After Wednesday's announcement by the 16-nation Western alliance, NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner would say only that a decision to launch air strikes would be made in close consultation with Dr. Ghali.

A senior NATO diplomat told Reuters that decisions on air strikes after the initial attack would be left in the hands of NATO and U.N. force commanders, but that in the event of disagreement between them, there would be a procedure for moving the matter "up the chain of command."

The diplomat, who declined to be named, also warned the warring factions around the Bosnian capital not to test NATO's tolerance by engaging in heavy weapon attacks during the 10-day period.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in a telephone conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton Friday that the U.N. Security Council should act to solve the Bosnian crisis, a Kremlin statement said.

"The solutions to all questions concerning the situation in Bosnia, particularly around Sarajevo, should be undertaken only by the U.N. Security Council," the statement quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Yeltsin has made no public comments on the NATO position. But he is clearly under pressure to prevent any use of force against the Serbs, traditional Russian allies.

In Washington, White House spokeswoman Dee Myers characterised the conversation as "very positive." She said Mr. Clinton was "very encouraged," by the conversation.

France sends carriers, ministers, page 8

U.N. envoy is given authority

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Boutros Ghali has delegated authority to his special representative in Yugoslavia both to initiate a first air strike against gun positions around Sarajevo and to order close air support to protect U.N. troops anywhere in Bosnia, the U.N. chief said Friday. This gives the envoy, Yasushi Akashi, much broader powers than announced two weeks ago, when he was authorised only to order close air support in connection with operations to rotate U.N. troops in the besieged town of Srebrenica and open the airport at Tuzla to humanitarian aid.

ment, buoyed by the NATO threat to bomb Serbs besieging Sarajevo, on Friday refused to discuss a plan to demilitarise the embattled city and put it under U.N. control.

As so often in the elusive search for peace in Bosnia, the faction that feels strongest at the moment was holding out for better terms.

The criticism, by pro-peace moderates, reflected deepening dissatisfaction within the PLO leadership over its chairman's negotiations with Israel.

Samir Ghosheh, a PLO Ex-

King leads first Friday prayers of Ramadan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein led prayers at the Royal Guards Mosque on Friday, the first day of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The King and worshippers listened to Friday sermons delivered by the Royal Guard's imam, who focused on the lessons learned from fasting.

Attending the prayers with the King were also Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the military secretary of King Hussein, and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Prime Minister Abdul Salam



Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, and senior civil and military officials.

The chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff, and the directors-general of General Intelligence, Public Security and Civil Defence departments Friday sent cables to King Hussein congratulating him on the beginning of the

fasting month of Ramadan and wishing him continued good health and happiness.

Ramadan fasting begins, page 3

Identity of suspects in Maaytah killing revealed, said linked to Abu Nidal

They said they were still looking for other suspects.

The result of investigations revealed that the killer is Yousef Mahmoud Shaaban... in cooperation with the three arrested people, and others who are still at large," the statement said.

A senior security official told Reuters the alleged killer and two suspected Palestinian accomplices in the murder of Nayef Maaytah were members of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC).

"They said they were members of the (Fatah) Revolutionary Council," the official said.

The FRC, which broke away from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction in 1973, is strongly opposed to peace deals with Israel.

But it has already denied involvement in the killing of Mr. Maaytah, who was shot dead by a gunman in Beirut on Jan. 29.

Police announced in a statement late on Thursday that Shaaban, alias Wael Mohammad Ali, and the two other suspects had been arrested.

A police spokesman said the three were turned over by police to examining magistrate Saeed Mirza to start legal proceedings.

The statement did not give the identities, affiliation or number of those arrested, but it referred to "culprits" in plural.

A police spokesman said the three were turned over by police to examining magistrate Saeed Mirza to start legal proceedings.

Mr. Maaytah, 42, the Jordanian embassy's first secretary, was shot seven times in the head and neck. The gunman and an accomplice escaped.

The spokesman said Shaaban was suspected of pulling the trigger and the other two were accomplices. He did not give the affiliations or motives of the suspects.

Security officials said earlier in the week that at least three Palestinians allegedly belonging to Abu Nidal's group were killed in the case.

Mr. Maaytah was the first foreign diplomat assassinated in Beirut since the end of Lebanon's 15-year civil war in 1990. His slaying in broad daylight was a blow to Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's efforts to clean up Lebanon's image as a haven for assassins, kidnappers, bombers and aircraft hijackers.

His group is also believed to have been behind a wave of attacks in the 1970s and 1980s including hijacking and attacks on Rome and Vienna airports in which dozens of people were killed.

The FRC denied Tuesday any involvement in Mr. Maaytah's assassination after Beirut newspapers alleged it was responsible.

Shohal warns of siege after 2 Israelis killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Following the slaying of two Israelis, Police Minister Moshe Shahal warned Friday Israel may reinstate a full closure of the occupied territories if Palestinians carry out more attacks.

Mr. Shahal predicted an increase in attacks by Palestinian hardliners frustrated by this week's breakthrough in the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiations.

Israeli security forces, meanwhile, stepped up patrols in Arab East Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied territories Friday, the first day of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Two groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, have threatened to step up violence during the month of fasting.

The body of taxidriver Ilan Sudri, 23, was found in a field near the Heletz communal farm in southern Israel on Friday. Police mounted a search for Sudri, a former border policeman, after his blood-stained taxi was found abandoned Thursday.

The car was found near Heletz, an Israeli town north west of the occupied Gaza Strip, Israel Radio said.

The Islamic Jihad's organisation issued a statement Thursday claiming it had kidnapped a policeman near the southern town of Beersheba, killed him and confiscated his identification cards and gun.

"Yoshivya is about 25 kilometres northeast of Beersheba.

The statement, faxed to

news agencies, included photocopies of Sudri's identity card, police card and driver's license.

Police sources said Sudri had served in the paramilitary border police force but had been discharged.

The Islamic Jihad opposes the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord and has sworn to continue attacks on Israelis. But civilian kidnappings are rare.

Last year the Islamic Jihad claimed in a similar announcement to have kidnapped and killed an Israeli. He was later found alive, but his car had been stolen with the wallet in it.

On Thursday, a 75-year-old Israeli farmer, Naftali Sahr, was found beaten to death in his orange grove near the central Israeli town of Rehovot.

Police commander Rafi Peled said that in both killings, the tracks led to the occupied Gaza Strip.

Before the deaths of Sudri and Sahr, 20 Israelis have been killed by Palestinians since the Sept. 13 signing of the Israeli-PLO accord. During the same period, 62 Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops and civilians.

Mr. Shahal warned Friday that if violence persisted Israel would have to tighten controls so that Palestinians would not be able to travel from the West Bank and Gaza to jobs in Israel.

"I won't hesitate to ask the prime minister ... to carry out a complete closure," Mr. Shahal said on Israel Radio.

Middle East News

Cairo accord 'encourages' U.S.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — State Department spokesman Michael McCurry on Thursday called "very positive" and "quite encouraging" the agreement Feb. 9 between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on several key security issues that clears away "some of the obstacles" to implementing the declaration of principles.

"They have got a lot of work left to do," he cautioned, regarding the "many difficult issues that will arise from implementing the declaration."

He noted that the PLO and Israel are preparing a complex, detailed document relating to implementing the declaration, adding "that is going to take some time."

"Our view is that there should not be any lengthy delay in producing that document, because they need to get on with the business of changing the realities on the ground," he stressed.

"Their desire to insure that there are no ambiguities in the declaration is a worthy exercise, and some of the impediments to making progress have been cleared away by the

chairman and the foreign minister," he said.

"Implementation of the declaration and changing the realities on the ground is what will demonstrate to both the Israelis and Palestinians that there are true benefits for taking the risks of peace," Mr. McCurry said.

On Wednesday, President Clinton signed the accord a "big milestone" in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Clinton broke the news of the agreement during his meeting with the World Jewish Congress leadership here Feb.

Outlining the U.S. approach to the Middle East peace process, Mr. Clinton stated that it rests on four pillars: strengthening U.S.-Israel relations; ensuring the successful implementation of the Israel-Palestinian declaration of principles; getting negotiations with Syria on track; and ending the Arab boycott of Israel.

The following are excerpts from President Clinton's remarks:

"We have worked very hard to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East — one that enhances Israel's security and offers the acceptance of normal life which has

been too long denied to the citizens of that troubled region.

"The first pillar of that approach is strengthening the relationship between the United States and Israel. When I first met Prime Minister Rabin last year, almost a year ago this week, he said that he would be willing to take risks for peace, and certainly, he has been. Sometimes the opposition that he faces at home reminds me of the opposition I face from time to time. But clearly, he has been willing to take risks for peace. I told him if he should be willing to take those risks, then it was my responsibility as the president of the United States to minimize those risks. And I have tried to do that.

"The prime minister is fulfilling his commitment, and we are keeping ours — our commitment to maintaining and enhancing the security of Israel is ironclad. And it is a precondition of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

"The second pillar of our approach is to ensure the successful implementation of the Israel-Palestinian declaration of principles. Both sides now

have to begin to implement the agreement on the ground. And we are working hard to support that without interfering with it. Implementing the agreement on the ground is the only way to show the Israelis the agreement can enhance their security while providing a more normal life of more self-government for their Palestinian neighbours.

"The third pillar of our approach is to get other negotiations back on track. The biggest challenge this year is to help Israel and Syria make peace. My meeting in Geneva with President Assad was designed to help to achieve that goal. As he said after the meeting, Syria has made a strategic decision for peace and wants now, for the first time, normal, peaceful relations with Israel.

"We have welcomed these statements, for they break new ground. We've also welcomed the Syrian decision to grant exit permits to all Syrian Jews who wish to leave. I understand the process of issuing visas is now virtually completed. But more will be required. Syria must demonstrate that it wants a full and meaningful peace."

Rights report assails Sudan

GENEVA (AP) — Government and rebel forces in Sudan have massacred thousands of civilians in indiscriminate killings and kidnapped children on a massive scale for use as slaves or soldiers, according to a new U.N. report.

The report released to the U.N. Human Rights Commission on Thursday cited grim details of widespread executions and torture in "ghost houses," in northern Sudan and deliberate bombing of civilian targets in war-shattered southern parts.

"Potentially all categories and strata of the population are affected by violations of human rights committed by agents of the government or by abuses against the life, security and freedom of the individual committed by members of the SPLA (rebel factions)," it said.

The report by Hungarian expert Gaspar Biro is due to be discussed later this month during the commission's annual six-week session. It is the first time Sudan's record has been subject to public scrutiny by the U.N.'s top human rights watchdog and follows years of pressure by Western governments and private organisations.

In its yearly human rights report, the U.S. State Department last week described the situation in Sudan as "dismal."

Aid workers have said that renewed government offensives near the southern border with Uganda in the past week have caused huge losses and forced tens of thousands of refugees to flee.

Mr. Biro criticised Sudan's military government for its application of Islamic law. He said key parts of Sudan's legal code — which provide for execution, amputation or flogging depending on the crime — and the treatment of women violated international conventions on civil and political rights.

He said the use of the death penalty for apostasy — or rejection of Islam — was in "flagrant contradiction" with international law.

The charges prompted a furious response from the Sudanese military government, which accused Mr. Biro of blaspheming Islam.

"This is an insult to Islam and demands denunciation by all Muslims," Justice Minister Abdul Aziz Shiddiq said Wednesday night when details of the charges first emerged.

Mr. Biro painted a desperate picture about the plight of "hundreds of thousands" of children, especially in the south, where rebels have waged a 10-year-long-war against the north.

"Most of these children have witnessed people being injured, killed or raped and have seen people dying from hunger," he said.

He quoted one top relief official as saying that "these kids are the most exposed and potentially most traumatised children we have ever seen."

Mr. Biro said in southern Sudan, abduction and trafficking of children took place routinely.

"The mass abduction and traffic (including sale) seem to be an organised and politically motivated activity on the level of non regular armed forces like the popular defence forces and contingents of Mujahideen," he said.

In Gaza, people await changes on the street, not signings

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Both Israeli and Palestinian officials have said that the toughest details about security arrangements under autonomy had been worked out, but cautioned that it would take weeks to finish withdrawal terms.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said it would take at least a month to finalise an agreement, and there would be no prisoner releases or Israeli troop withdrawal until then.

In Geneva, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had fought about every sentence and be discounted any changes on the ground until the entire laborious process was over.

"I believe that certain walls of suspicion are starting to crumble, and that we understand the Palestinian desire to run their own lives does not contradict security issues," Mr. Peres said.

"If the agreement doesn't work this time there will be more frustrations, more violence and an uprising with all the weapons coming in here," said Majid Arafat, a pastry shop owner distantly related to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader. "There will be more Palestinians and Israelis killing each other on the streets."

The constant bloodshed has eroded support for the peace process on both sides. According to the Associated Press, 62 Palestinians and 20 Israelis have been killed in violent confrontations since Sept. 13.

"All the time they talk about this agreement, but there is no change here," said Suhaib Al Kumi, a 37-year-old Gaza shopkeeper.

On both sides many saw the signing ceremony in Cairo as basically a public relations move. After two previous meetings between Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat, neither side wanted to come out and face an increasingly skeptical public

with empty hands.

Uri Savir, director-general of the foreign ministry, told a press conference that Mr. Peres bore down hard to insist that some decisions be finalised.

"I believe that certain walls of suspicion are starting to crumble, and that we understand the Palestinian desire to run their own lives does not contradict security issues," Mr. Peres said.

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with empty hands.

Israeli jails, although Israel contends the number is half that.

Speaking on Israel Radio Thursday, Mr. Rabin said talks would now resume in Paris on economic issues and in the Egyptian resort of Taba on the handover of power to a Palestinian self-rule authority.

"What was signed in Cairo is a very important step towards completing the agreement," he said. "I predict that at least another month will be necessary in order to finish the details of the agreement to a full accord."

Mr. Rabin's office said Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat would meet after agreement was reached on all issues. They will decide the size of the Jericho autonomy enclave.

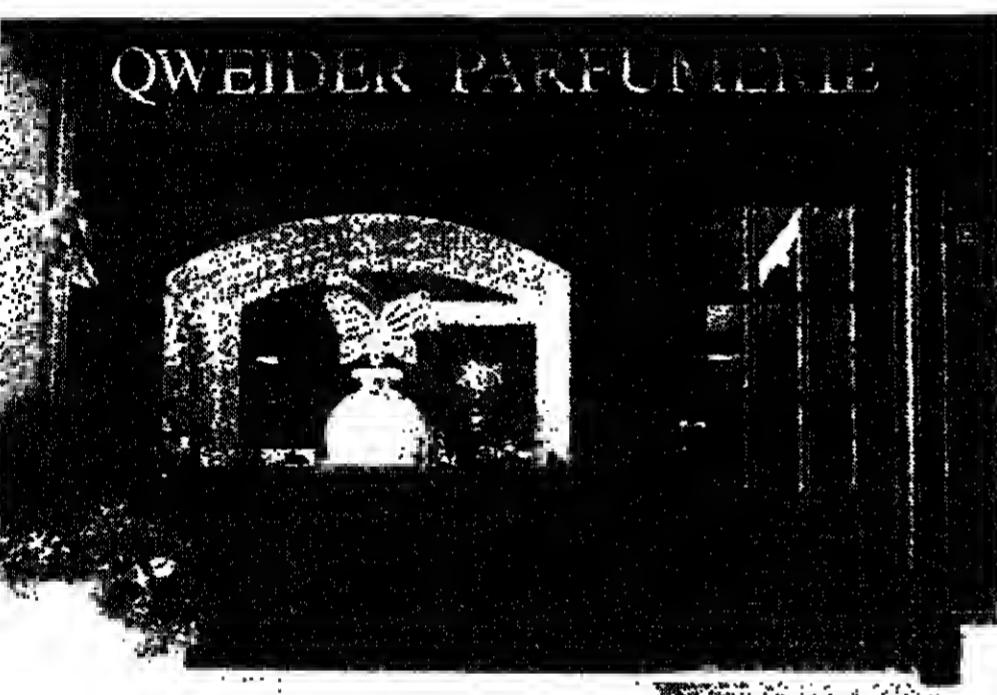
Dr. Ahmad Tibi, the Israeli-Arab physician who serves as a liaison to Mr. Arafat, predicted agreement would take until the end of Ramadan.

In the talks expected to start in Taba on Monday the two sides will negotiate the details of power transfer in administrative departments like health and taxation. They have agreed in 25 of 38 departments.

Remaining issues include deployment of Palestinian police, the types of travel documents Palestinians will carry and water allocation.

In Washington, the two sides are discussing Palestinian elections, tentatively set for July, for a self-rule council.

VALENTINE IN STYLE



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PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Lcs Adventures De L'Espace
17:41 L'Ecole Des Fleurs
18:00 Beaujolais
18:09 News in French
18:15 News in English
18:30 News in Hebrew
18:30 News in Arabic
18:30 Family Matters
18:30 The Campbells
18:30 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "Stuck With Each Other"

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:25 Dhuhr
14:45 'Asr
17:13 Maghrib
18:33 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637385
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624300
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrassants Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Catholic Church Tel. 630851 Tel. 625843

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel.

652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

624326

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will significantly rise during the next two days becoming above average, with winds becoming southeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 4/16

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 773121

Highway Police 893202

Taxi Police 893290

Public Security Department 630221

Hotel Complaints 603000

Police Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overscas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101

Al-Baladi Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Ajdabiya Electricity Authority 815615

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd 989000
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Agaba 21, Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Agaba 32 per cent.

AMMAN:
Dr. Hanan Matour 751672
Dr. Nidal Al Mousawi 240748
Dr. Khalil Al Iskandar 649028
Dr. Salih Al 'Usaid 641912
First Pharmacy 778336
Dr. Hassan Matour 637055
Norouzkh Pharmacy 623672
Al Salam Pharmacy 636730
Yacoub Pharmacy 644945
Shmoushi Pharmacy 637464
Naifib Pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Fayed Al Qadi 248743
Al Quds Pharmacy (—)

Home News

Crescent sighting starts Ramadan

of social solidarity.

Meanwhile, an official at the Ministry of Supply has said that the ministry has made available to consumers large quantities of food supplies and consumer goods.

The ministry official told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that these food supplies can be found in abundance at the Civil and Military Consumers' Corporations and the warehouses of the ministry.

The official said basic food supplies imported by the ministry, such as sugar, rice and milk, are available in quantities sufficient for four to six months.

The source said other items not imported by the ministry regularly, such as olive oil and frozen chicken, were available in sufficient quantities in the local market.

Affirming that the ministry would remain firm in forcing food merchants to abide by health regulations, he said the ministry would continue to monitor food prices in all of the Kingdom's markets by evening.

It urged Muslims to give zakat (alms for the poor) during the month to widows,

orphans and the needy and on Monday called on them to visit their families and relatives as a form

transfer in advance.

On this occasion, Sheikh

Majesty King Hussein and im-

posed God to make Ramadan

a month of good deeds for the

Arab and Islamic nations.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

الجريدة العربية الوحيدة التي تنشر المقالات والآراء بغير تحرير

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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAJ JO

Faxsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Answer in resolve

THE DISCLOSURE Wednesday by Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad that the security forces had uncovered more plots than originally thought to destabilise Jordan through assassinations, bombings and attacks on security personnel should only strengthen this country's resolve to combat terrorism by all legal and effective means. In this regard, public participation in efforts to root out terrorism from our midst is a necessary component of the law and order process. The worst thing that could happen is to have Jordanians of all walks of life rely only on police to check the attempts to undermine the stability and security of the Kingdom. When it comes to the safety of the country, the security forces and the people are and should be on the same wave length and fighting on one united front.

In retrospect, it was expected that the enemies of the peace process would join forces with the elements who are desperately trying to weaken the country to destabilise the country. Ever since the beginning of the peace talks on the Middle East conflict, there have been persistent signs that Jordan would become one of the targets of the opponents of peace negotiations with Israel. As a matter of fact, ever since the beginning of the Palestinian conflict there had been efforts to intimidate Jordan into taking disastrous actions. This pattern seems to continue and now is the time to put an end to this cycle of intimidation by one way or another, especially when there are indications that the source of the current wave of violence could be external.

Still the widespread concern triggered by the minister's recent revelations should not cause panic or make us opt for precipitous emergency measures. It must be remembered that Jordanian democracy is also a prime target of many sides. There are many parties which are not happy with the success of the Jordanian democratic process and some would do anything to abort it. There is every reason to believe that the threats and plots against the country can still be defeated while democracy still reigns supreme.

Against this backdrop, the main thing is to strengthen not only the diligence and alertness of our security people but also that of the public. Our people are fully aware that they have the highest stake in the security and stability of this country, and we should expect from them to stand as one against all threats, intimidation and terrorist crimes.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Rolf Ekeus has been entrusted with his U.N. mission in Iraq and not Kuwait but has been visiting Kuwait to get money to finance the continued sanctions on Iraq and to replenish the empty coffers of the United Nations, charged Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i. The United Nations bankruptcy is behind Washington's continued pressure on Iraq to force the Iraqis to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil, 30 per cent of which will go to the United Nations and end its bankruptcy, said the writer. Of course since the Iraqis are not paying, the only alternative is Kuwait which continues to supply the United Nations with funds and is ready to continue paying as long as Iraq remains under embargo, said the writer. Kuwait has gambled with its future by selling its oil in advance, with the payment going to the United Nations and the countries which sent their armed forces and military equipment to help restore the rulers to their seats in Kuwait, he continued. The writer said that Ekeus has no mission in Kuwait where he gave statements to appease the Kuwaiti hatred towards Iraq and got paid for it. The writer said that the Iraqis realise that it is their oil which the United Nations is after and they are determined to thwart such aims and to offer more sacrifices for the sake of protecting their dignity.

A columnist in Al Dustour charged that Egypt was mediating between the Palestinians and the Israelis for two reasons: to ensure its continued leadership — albeit by name — of the Arab World on the one hand and to make its own peace treaty with Israel more palatable to the Arab masses on the other. Yasser Zaatreh said that all Arab states directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict were not happy about the Oslo deal between Israel and the PLO, but Egypt continues to peddle the deal and call the Arabs to accept it. The writer said that the Arab states were not happy about the deal because it has achieved nothing for the Palestinians and the Arabs at large, but had opened the door for Israel's hegemony over Arab economy. With Egypt having a hand in this affair, the PLO leadership finds itself unable to move freely without the blessing of Cairo in matters related to its dealings with Israel, said the writer. It is now feared that Cairo will also bless linking the Israeli and the Palestinian economy and keeping the Palistinian autonomy rule under the Israeli hegemony.

Jordanian Perspective

Jordan is rethinking, but not the way its enemies would want

JORDAN IS under siege. As we go about our daily lives, the state of affairs that challenges the country, its leadership and its people may not be clearly written in black and white for everyone to take note of and behave accordingly, but a siege is what it amounts to no matter how anyone looks at it.

Events that unfolded in the last four weeks have once again proved to us that moderation and principled positions have a high price and would inevitably bring about crises and tests of fire for the country's firm stands, internally, regionally and internationally. But the advocates of extremism and opportunism would be better off if they realise that Jordan's positions, whether in terms of the democratic process under way in the Kingdom or its commitment to the peace process did not come out of a vacuum but from a realistic assessment of the regional and international situation and a committed policy over the decades, particularly its demand for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement addressing all aspects of the conflict, away from dramatics and short-sighted gestures.

In the meantime, we as Jordanians have to absorb the impact of the developments and devise means to counter their influence in our lives through a collective approach. What we stand to lose is our way of life that our leadership has guided through the decades and our identity as Jordanians that our leadership has established for us.

Jordan is under siege on four different tracks. The first track indeed is the ever-present external diplomatic pressure applied on it to sign an agreement with Israel and then negotiate the terms of that agreement in contradiction to every known norm of negotiations. Such an approach cannot be valid even in cases where the issues involved are simpler, let alone the complex Middle East conflict, where national, regional and international interests have been meshed so much together into a mess that makes little sense to anyone except those whose direct interests are targeted. Jordan has fiercely resisted such approaches, but it would seem that those who apply the pressures have not given up.

Against the looming backdrop of those pressures came the allegations raised by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas that regulations on safety of food and medicine available to Jordanians were grossly violated. There could be some truth in the charges, but the way the affair was handled has not only done serious damage to public confidence in the safety

mechanisms that protect us from abuse but has also dealt a severe blow to the same people whose skills and entrepreneurship that we count on as pillars of the country and the conduit to developing the nation and its economy.

Jordan has always relied on the strength and innovative skills of its human resources to advance itself in the regional and international scenes. The same human resources and skills came under scrutiny and attack as a result of the charges levelled by our health minister without a clear distinction between a few unscrupulous traders and the majority of others who genuinely adhere to sound business principles without compromising public health standards. And the result was indeed damaging. Quite simply, how can we expect our entrepreneurs to continue their innovative contributions to the economy after casting doubts on their business practices? That is definitely not to say that violators of the law should be forgiven. They should be punished, and punished severely, as an example for others who might be tempted to tamper with food and medicine standards and regulations. But the whole affair should have been handled in a different approach rather than drawing it through all kinds of ambiguities and confusions, leading to investors stopping short and diverting their funds away from Jordan.

The quicker the process of investigations into the affair, followed by definite results and prosecutions wherever warranted, the better for all of us to put the episode behind us and refocus our attention on nation-building.

Adding fuel to the fire came the blasts at two cinema houses and the assassination of one of our diplomats in Beirut.

The three issues — the questions over food and medicine, the explosions at two public places and the despicable assassination of Jordanian diplomat Nayeh Maayat — could not be directly linked with each other as far as outside observer. But for us in Jordan there cannot be any distinction among the issues if only because we have to live through the consequences of all these issues plus the pressure on our country in the peace process, and, as such, we have to look at the cumulative impact of these developments.

For once, our elected representatives in Parliament have risen to the challenge of the occasion by authorising the executive authority to handle the challenge to our national

security in whatever means it finds fit. It is an overwhelming gesture of the awareness of the perils that we all face. Revelations by our interior minister, Salameh Hammad, that the security forces have uncovered plots to destabilise Jordan come not exactly as a surprise. We all knew that sooner or later such incidents were bound to occur since there was no doubt that there were parties which were totally upset by our liberal views, pragmatism and commitments based on recognition of the facts on the ground.

Our honourable deputies deserve praise for their response of giving a carte blanche (it is indeed what the parliamentary statement issued Wednesday represented) to the government to deal with the situation. Of course that was what was expected of them and they were only doing their job, but their decision reflected a realisation that Jordan is facing a national emergency and it is a time to set aside political differences and that there is need to concentrate on a unified approach to confronting the needs of the day.

Dubious external circles are trying to exploit the massive land and sea borders that the Kingdom shares with five countries — Syria, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Egypt. It is no easy task for our security forces to impose a foolproof filter at every nook and corner of our borders. But they have done an excellent job so far since all indications appear to affirm that the acts of terror that we witnessed in the past weeks were concocted locally with possible external funding from parties which have a vested interest in destabilising Jordan.

It is a time for us to be vigilant and abstain from rumour mongering which will only add to speculations and heighten tension. There are elements and parties which are trying to change our way of life and divert it away from moderation, liberalisation and democracy.

For those parties, challenging Jordan's national security and stability by trying to undermine public confidence in our security forces and threatening the safety of Jordanian diplomats abroad is an effort to stop the Kingdom in its tracks and to force it rethink before it proceeds on its committed course.

Rethink, we will. We are doing it already. But definitely not along the lines that those who challenge us want us to.

The Week in Print

Israel's peekaboo with peace

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE PEACE process, Jordanian domestic affairs, Iraq and other issues were the key topics that figured high in the local press in the past week. The controversy over food and medicine was also discussed by columnists.

In pursuit of their aggression on the Arab World, the Israelis are not only ignoring calls for withdrawing forces from southern Lebanon but their leaders are preparing for an offensive on that country, Mohammad Kharroub wrote in Al Ra'i. The writer said that the Israeli raids on South Lebanon were paving the way for this expected offensive, following the death of four Israeli troops in confrontation with the Lebanese resistance. Israel would not wait for any one to give it the green light but would go ahead with plans for attack, Mr. Kharroub wrote.

The same views were echoed by Arefat Hijazi in Sawt Al Shaah. The Arabs should take stock of the peace process and examine the facts on the ground, the writer said. Nothing has been achieved by the Arab parties through their prolonged talks with the Israeli enemy since the Madrid conference, and if there were any gains at all, they were in favour of Israel at the regional and international levels. Mr. Hijazi wrote. More importantly, he

pressure them into accepting its own version of peace as long as it feels it is the stronger and dominant power in the region. Mr. Abu Bakr said that since the start of the Madrid conference, Israel has given up nothing of the occupied lands and has continually stalled and prevaricated as it fears no enemy in the region. Israel persists in occupying Arab land, continues its atrocities against the Palestinians and disregards U.N. resolutions and calls for genuine and lasting peace, he wrote.

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in Sawt Al Shaah that Iraq had agreed to all the conditions imposed by the United Nations and the big powers and accepted the idea of installing cameras to monitor its armament programmes.

Instead of ending the sanctions or at least ease the suffering of the Iraqi people through opening the door for Iraq to import food supplies, the U.N. is imposing stricter control and inspection measures on Iraq and is continually sending teams to Iraq as a kind of humiliation of the Arabs, Dr. Qtami wrote.

In another Al Ra'i column, Mr. Massarweh mocked at the reported weeping of Rolf Ekeus upon learning of the plight of an Iraqi family in Baghdad. The man has no sympathy for the Iraqis and is helping the United Nations to create the plight, the writer said. Mr. Ekeus serves as an agent for the Americans and the Israelis and hates the Arabs and the Muslims, and for this reason he pursues his efforts to humiliate the Iraqi

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Features

February 9, 1994

Passages

The two sides agreed on the attached text to be included in the Gaza-Jericho Agreement.

The Jericho Area

1. The size of the Jericho Area will be as depicted on the agreed map attached to this Agreement.
 2. In addition, while not part of the Jericho Area:
 a. Pending the entry into force of the Interim Agreement, the holy site of Nebi Mousa will be under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority for religious purposes.
 b. During religious events that take place three times a year and other special occasions that will be coordinated with the Israeli authorities, Palestinians will have the right to religious pilgrimage to the Al-Maqdas under the Palestinian flag.
 c. Palestinian private projects, as well as joint ventures in accordance with the Declaration of Principles, will be located as agreed on the shore of the Dead Sea.

d. Safe passage will be provided from the Jericho Area to Nebi Mousa, Al-Maqdas and the projects and ventures as agreed in paragraph e. above on the shore of the Dead Sea for the above mentioned purposes. Details regarding the safe passage arrangements will be included in the Gaza-Jericho Agreement.

3. Roads within Jericho city will be under Palestinian control. Joint patrols on the main roads will be operated, led by the Palestinian vehicle. The issue of Auja and its roads will be negotiated in the immediate future in Taba.

4. Religious affairs in the "Shalom Al Israel" Synagogue in Jericho will be under the auspices of the Israeli authorities.

The Gaza Strip

1. In accordance with the D.O.P., during the interim period the Gush Katif and Erez settlement areas, as well as the other settlements in the Gaza Strip, and the Israeli military installation area along the Egyptian border in the Gaza Strip, as indicated on the attached map will be under Israeli authority. In the areas delineated in yellow on the attached map and without derogating from Palestinian authority, responsibility will be shared as follows: the Israeli authorities will have the overriding responsibility and powers for security and the Palestinian Authority will have the responsibility and powers for civil affairs, subject to the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. In addition, with regard to those areas delineated in yellow, cooperation and coordination in security matters, including joint patrols, as agreed, will be implemented. Possible changes in the area designated yellow in the Southern Security Zone will be dealt with in Taba.

2. Without derogating from Palestinian authority and in accordance with the D.O.P.:
 (a) On the three Israeli roads connecting the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip to Israel, namely; the Kissufim-Gush Katif road; the Sufa-Gush Katif road; and the Nahal Oz-Karni-Nezzanim road, including the adjacent sides upon which the security of traffic along these roads is dependent, the Israeli authorities will have all necessary responsibilities and powers in order to conduct independent security activity, including Israeli patrols.

(b) Joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols will operate along these roads and the adjacent sides. Such joint patrols will be lead by the Israeli vehicle.

(c) Where the Israeli authorities carry out engagement steps, they will do so with a view to transferring, at the earliest opportunity, the continued handling of the incidents falling within Palestinian responsibility to the Palestinian Police.

(d) Overpasses will be constructed on intersections between the lateral roads and the main north-south road.

(e) These arrangements will be reviewed by the JSCCC after one year from the date of completion of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip.

3. Zoning questions will be dealt with in Taba.

Other issues

The early empowerment agreement will be negotiated in Taba, after the completion of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. The Interim Agreement, including modalities for elections and redeployment of forces in the West Bank, will be negotiated in Washington, D.C.

Agreement draws mixed reaction

(Continued from page 1)

many issues remained to be negotiated. They said negotiations with the Israeli delegation were a very difficult battle.

"In practice, we were negotiating with three Israeli delegations — the army who were the hardliners, (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres the moderate, and (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin, who was less hardline than his army generals," a PLO negotiator said.

The PLO leadership was concerned that the delay in the implementation of the Sept. 13 accord was eroding support for it among Palestinians and it would only have drawn more divisions and bloodshed in the occupied territories.

Initialising the agreement, they argued, would give internal momentum for the negotiations on implementation of the Oslo accord.

Other PLO officials called for guarantees that ensure the implementation of the agreement.

PLO official Nabil Amr, a supporter of the Sept. 13 accord but who calls for democratisation and political reforms in the PLO, said the Cairo agreement offers Israel the upper hand and right to be the effective reference point for all decisions. He said the need to break the deadlock reached in negotiations should not mean ignoring the pitfalls which would challenge the PLO's ability to implement what it signed.

"It seems that the need to sign the agreement after the series of unsuccessful attempts since September evidently led to a failure to include the necessary guarantees for a scheduled implementation," Mr. Amr said.

He said the PLO leadership should start working on securing such guarantees in order to ensure better conditions during the interim and final periods.

Some senior members of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), who, for months, have been preparing to enter Gaza and Jericho and to control security there, disapproved the Cairo agreement and felt great disappointment.

"We are very worried about the possibility that Israel might choose to accept only its own reading of the Cairo agreement ... we are concerned over some articles which indicate the continuation of occupation instead of its gradual removal as stated in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242," Mr. Najib said.

But chief Palestinian negotiator Faisal Husseini, who took part in the negotiations, defended the agreement saying that both the Oslo and Cairo agreements were only a step that would ultimately

achieve the aims of the parties involved.

They were referring to such issues as stated in the text of the

The Cairo Agreement

February 9, 1994

Final Version

Article

Passages

1. General

a. While Israel remains responsible during the interim period for external security, including along the Egyptian border and the Jordanian line, border crossing shall take place according to the arrangements included in this Article. These arrangements aim at creating a mechanism that facilitates the entry and exit of people and goods, reflecting the new reality created by the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles, while providing full security for both sides.

b. The arrangements included in this Article shall apply to the following border crossings:

(1) the Allenby Bridge crossing; and

(2) the Rafah crossing.

c. The same arrangements will be applied by the parties, with the necessary adjustments, to agree seaports, airports or other international crossings, such as the Abdullah and Damya bridges.

d. The two sides are determined to do their utmost to maintain the dignity of persons passing through the border crossings. To this end, the mechanism created will rely heavily on brief and modern procedures.

e. In each border crossing there will be one terminal, consisting of two wings. The first wing will serve Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank and visitors to these areas (hereinafter "the Palestinian Wing"). The second wing will serve Israelis and others (hereinafter "the Israeli Wing"). There will be a closed Israeli checking area and a closed Palestinian checking area, as set out below.

f. Special arrangements will apply to V.I.P.s crossing through the Palestinian Wing. The liaison bureau to be established pursuant to paragraph 5 below (hereinafter "the Liaison Bureau") will define the scope and the nature of these special arrangements.

2. Control and Management of the Passages

a. For the purpose of this Article, "passage" is defined to mean the area from the crossing barrier at the Egyptian border or the Allenby Bridge, passing through and including the terminal and:

(1) with regard to the Allenby Bridge crossing, from the terminal up to the Jericho Area; and

(2) with regard to the Rafah crossing, from the terminal up to the outer limit of the Israeli military location along the Egyptian border.

b. (1) Israel will have the responsibility for security throughout the passage, including for the terminal.

(2) An Israeli director-general will have the responsibility for the management and security of the terminal.

(3) The director-general will have two deputies who will report to him:

(a) an Israeli deputy who will be the manager of the Israeli Wing. Israel will have exclusive responsibility for the management of the Israeli Wing, and

(b) a Palestinian deputy, appointed by the Palestinian Authority, who will be the manager of the Palestinian Wing.

(4) Each deputy will have an assistant for security and an assistant for administration. The assignments of the Palestinian deputies for security and administration will be agreed upon by the two sides in Taba.

(5) There will be maximum coordination between the two sides. Both sides will maintain cooperation and coordination on matters of mutual concern.

(6) The director-general will continue to use Palestinian contractors to provide bus services and other administrative and logistical services.

(7) Palestinian policemen present at the terminal will be armed with handguns. Their deployment will be decided upon in Taba. Other Palestinian officials present at the terminal will be unarmed.

(8) The details of management and security and Liaison Bureau issues will be dealt with in Taba.

(9) The two sides will work together in Taba in order to seek ways for additional arrangements in the Rafah terminal.

(10) Both Parties will review these procedures in a year time.

c. Except for the arrangements included in this Article, the

current procedures and arrangements applicable outside the terminal shall continue to apply throughout the passage.

d. (1) Once incoming passengers have crossed the terminal, they will proceed to the Jericho Area or the Gaza Strip, as appropriate, without any interference from Israeli authorities (safe passage).

(2) Outgoing passengers may proceed to the terminal without any interference from Israeli authorities after joining the exit that such passengers hold the necessary documentation for exiting the area to Jordan or Egypt, as set out in this Agreement.

3. Arrangements for Entry from Egypt and Jordan Through the Palestinian Wing

a. At the entrance to the Palestinian Wing there will be a Palestinian policeman and a raised Palestinian flag.

b. Before entering the Palestinian Wing, passengers will identify their personal luggage and it will be placed on a conveyor belt. Each side will be able to inspect such luggage inside its own checking area, using its own personnel and, if necessary, may open the luggage for inspection in the presence of the owner and a Palestinian policeman.

c. Persons entering the Palestinian Wing will pass through a magnetic gate. An Israeli policeman and a Palestinian policeman will be posted on each side of this gate. In the event of suspicion, each side will be entitled to require a physical inspection to be conducted in inspection booths to be located adjacent to the gate. Passengers will be inspected by a Palestinian policeman in the presence of an Israeli policeman. Accompanying personal belongings may also be inspected at this point.

d. Having completed the above phase, persons entering the Palestinian Wing will pass through one of three lanes for the purpose of identification and document control, as follows:

(1) The first lane will be used by Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area. These passengers will pass via a Palestinian counter, where their documents and identity will be checked. Their documents will be checked by an Israeli officer who will also check their identity indirectly in an invisible manner.

(2) The second lane will serve other Palestinian residents of the West Bank. These passengers will first pass via a Palestinian counter, where their documents and identity will be checked. Then they will continue via an Israeli counter, where their documents and identity will be checked. The two counters will be separated by tinted glass and a revolving door.

(3) The third lane will serve visitors to the Gaza Strip and West Bank. An identical procedure as in paragraph 3, d(2) above will apply to such visitors, except that they will first pass via the Israeli counter, and then continue via the Palestinian counter.

e. In the event of suspicion regarding a passenger in any of the three lanes described in paragraph d. above, each side may question such passenger in its closed checking area. Suspicion justifying questioning in the closed checking area may be one of the following:

(1) the passenger was involved, directly or indirectly, in criminal or planned criminal activity, in terrorist or planned terrorist activity and is not a beneficiary of the amnesty provisions of this Agreement.

(2) the passenger conceals arms, explosives or related equipment;

(3) the passenger holds forged or non-valid documentation or the details included in the documentation are inconsistent with those included in the population registry (in case of a resident) or in the data base (in case of a visitor), except that questions relating to such inconsistency will initially be raised at the counter and the passenger will be questioned in the closed checking area only if the suspicion has not been removed; or

(4) the passenger acts in an obviously suspicious behaviour during the passage via the terminal.

If, at the conclusion of this questioning, the suspicion has not been removed, such passenger may be apprehended, after the other side has been notified. In case of a Palestinian suspect being apprehended by the Israeli side, a Palestinian policeman will be asked to meet with the suspect. Following notification to the Liaison Bureau, any further treatment of the apprehended person will be in accordance with Annex III (Protocol Concerning Legal Arrangements in Criminal Matters).

f. In the Palestinian Wing, each side will have the authority to deny the entry of persons who are not residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

For the purpose of this Agreement, "residents of the Gaza Strip

and West Bank" shall mean persons who, on the date of entry into force of this Agreement, are registered as residents of these areas in the population registry maintained by the military government of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, as well as persons who have subsequently obtained permanent residency in these areas with the approval of Israel, as set out in this Agreement.

g. Following the above procedure, the passengers will collect their luggage and proceed to the customs area. (The procedures will be agreed upon in Paris.)

h. The Palestinian side will provide passengers whose entry is approved with an entry permit stamped by the Palestinian side and attached to their documents.

At the conclusion of the direct and indirect checking of the documents and identity of passengers passing via the first lane and stamping their entry permits, the Palestinian office will provide the passenger with a white card issued by the Israeli officer. A Palestinian official posted at the exit of the Palestinian office posted at the exit of the Palestinian wing will verify that the passenger holds such a white card and will collect the cards with indirect and invisible Israeli checking.

For passengers going through the second and third lanes, the Israeli officer will provide the passengers with a blue card, after checking their documents and identity, and verifying their entry permits. An Israeli and a Palestinian official posted at the exit at the Palestinian wing will verify and collect the cards. White and blue cards collected will be checked by Israeli and Palestinian officials.

In cases where either side denies the entry of a non-resident passenger, that passenger will be escorted out of the terminal and sent back to Jordan or Egypt, as appropriate, after notifying the other side.

4. Arrangements for Exit to Egypt and Jordan Through The Palestinian Wing

Passengers exiting to Egypt or Jordan through the Palestinian Wing will enter the terminal without their luggage. Thereafter, the same procedures described in paragraph 3, above will apply to them, except that the order of passing via the Israeli and Palestinian counters will be reversed.

5. Liaison Bureau

a. There will be a liaison bureau at each crossing point in order to deal with matters arising regarding passengers passing through the Palestinian Wing, issues requiring coordination, and differences regarding the implementation of these arrangements. Without derogating from Israel's responsibility for security, the bureau will also deal with incidents.

b. This bureau will be comprised of an equal number of representatives from each side and will be located at a specified location inside each terminal.

c. This bureau will be subordinate to the CAC and to the relevant RCCO.

6. Miscellaneous

a. Special arrangements will be agreed upon by the two sides regarding the passage of goods, buses, trucks and privately-owned vehicles. Pending this agreement, the current arrangements will continue to apply.

b. Israel will attempt to complete the structural alterations on the Rafah and Allenby Bridge terminals not later than the date of the completion of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area.

If these structural alterations are not completed by that time, the arrangements described in this Article shall apply, except for those arrangements that cannot be implemented without the structural alterations.

c. In order to cross through the crossing points in and out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area, residents of these areas will use documents as detailed in the Annex developed by the civilian committee. Pending the entry into force of the Interim Agreement, other West Bank residents will continue to use the existing documents issued by the military government and its Civil Administration.

d. Visitors to the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area will be permitted to remain in these areas for a period of up to three months granted by the Palestinian Authority and approved by Israel. The Palestinian Authority may extend this three-month period for an additional period of up to three months and will inform Israel about the extension. Any further extensions require the approval of Israel. The Palestinian request for a four-month period and an additional four months will be negotiated in Taba in the immediate future.

e. The Palestinian Authority will ensure that visitors referred to in paragraph d. above will not overstay the duration of their entry permit and authorised extensions.

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1994

Arab Gulf countries need foreign help for oil expansion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states will have to seek loans or foreign partners to boost their oil production capacity because of a cash shortage. Experts have said.

Their coffers have emptied because of weak crude prices and growing defence spending.

"They six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are expected to provide most of the capacity increase of around 10 million barrels per day (b/d) in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) by the year 2000 since their oil reserves account for more than 40 per cent of the world's proven reserves."

Independent estimates have put the cost of such projects at nearly \$120 billion, including around \$52 billion for maintaining the current output capacity. GCC states alone expect to spend more than \$40 billion on expansions by the mid-1990s, experts said.

GCC states are now concerned, said Yusuf Khalifa, an economics professor at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) University.

"Oil prices are expected to remain weak and the Gulf war has created a new situation, where GCC countries have to largely boost military spending at a time when other expenditure, like salaries, is growing. This shows they could be forced to seek loans or bring back foreign partners," he told AFP.

GCC states had foreign partners in their energy sector before most of them nationalised the industry nearly 20 years ago. Only the UAE still has foreign partners, who are allowed to hold a maximum 40 per cent shareholding.

But Kuwait has said it is considering allowing back Western companies and experts believe Saudi Arabia, which controls more than a quarter of the world's oil, will follow suit since it will bear the brunt of the investments.

Both countries are suffering from financial problems due to low oil prices, growing defence expenditure and large contributions to the Gulf war.

According to an independent study by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), Kuwait's

overseas funds have plummeted to \$38 billion from around \$100 billion and the Saudi assets to \$40 billion from more than \$100 billion.

The Gulf war has also turned them into debtors for the first time as they sought funds to shore up a large budget deficit.

A report by the Bahrain-based Arab Financial Services showed Kuwait's debt stood at \$9.8 billion at the end of 1992 and Saudi Arabia's debt at \$17 billion.

GCC states have sharply raised military spending to bolster their armies following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Such spending has been projected at between \$10 billion and \$70 billion during the 1990s.

"It reports that GCC states plan to spend around \$70 billion on armaments, then what they have of assets are not enough to face the investments needed for energy expansion," OAPEC said in a recent study. "In this case, they will have no choice but to invite world companies to participate in oil development projects almost 20 years after

most of them nationalised their oil industry."

A study presented to a seminar in the UAE last week said foreign firms were chalking out a long-term plan for participating in the Gulf oil sector while banks were preparing to extend \$80 billion in loans.

The study by UAE economist Mohammad Mulla said Western countries appeared to be putting pressure on oil prices to keep them weak and force Gulf states to seek their help. It cited a 13 per cent increase in crude production by Britain and Norway.

Oil prices have remained nearly \$7 below OPEC's target of \$21 due to oversupply and world recession. They averaged \$16.33 in 1993 compared with \$18.44 in 1992 and as high as \$30 in 1981.

Experts believe investment in the Gulf oil industry remains profitable even if oil prices go below \$10 given the low production cost in the region of between \$1 to \$3. Apart from financing, foreigners could also supply technology and help market Gulf oil, the experts said.

"Stability is the absence of surprises... and confidence can

Confidence crisis unsettles Turkish markets

ANKARA (R) — Turkish government efforts to stabilise volatile markets are hampered by a lack of confidence in its policies following frequent backtracking, bankers say.

Government moves to halt a run on the lira will be put to the test next week as trillions of lire pour into markets amid talks on a second devaluation within weeks, they predict.

"We are going through a crisis of confidence. It has forced the market to think only of today," Kemal Gurur, assistant general manager of private Estanb, told Reuters.

The government has reversed its policy of artificially keeping borrowing rates low to control the dollar and annulled much of a tax bill passed last year with extreme difficulty.

Former central bank chief Rusdu Saracoglu, who resigned in August over a policy dispute with Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, ended a seven-month silence Thursday to warn the government against the lack of confidence and instability in the market.

Before his resignation, Mr. Saracoglu had long resisted the treasury's borrowing policy, designed by Ms. Ciller.

"If the devaluation is inevitable, it must be done before

only be built in a stable climate," he told a conference.

He accused the treasury of "killing the domestic borrowing market" by cancelling weekly treasury bill auctions in the past three months to lower interest rates and lengthen the average borrowing maturity.

The stock exchange is experiencing a free-fall since mid-January when the treasury and central bank lost their grip on financial markets and excess money rushed into foreign currencies.

The government devalued the lira by 12 per cent and raised interest rates to calm the markets, but the tension continues.

Demand for foreign currencies, a safe haven for investors against uncertainty, is expected to rise next week. Some bankers say a rush into the dollar may force another devaluation.

"The government missed a chance. The last devaluation should have been at a higher rate... a second devaluation is necessary to settle down markets," Atalay Sahinoglu, chairman of Istanbul's Chamber of Commerce, told a meeting Thursday night.

"If the devaluation is inevitable, it must be done before

ing about 17 trillion lira on Feb. 15. The next day, 2 trillion lira of fresh cash will flow into the markets through a treasury domestic debt repayment.

The treasury has announced three public offers and three T-bill sales to drain next week's cash flood, seen by economists as a disaster waiting to happen.

"It must borrow short-term and at higher rates. Its offers are not attractive. I can't commit myself to a longer term deal as we can't see tomorrow," one private bank treasurer said.

Russian fuel payment crisis threatens supplies

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's fuel industry could grind to a halt soon unless consumers fork out cash to pay for supplies, the fuel and energy minister has said.

"The sum of non-payments has taken on such proportions that in the near future... it could completely paralyse the economic activity of energy sector enterprises," the ministry's Infotek Information Service said.

In the first official indication that even export markets could be hit by the depending financial crisis, it said supplies could be disrupted, to "both non-payers and prompt payers."

Fuel producers, whose workers are threatening to strike over unpaid salaries, are owed about 11.6 trillion rubles (\$7.4 billion) by customers in Russia and other former Soviet republics.

Some enterprises have been forced to reduce output, abandon investment projects or put workers on unpaid leave.

The problems were reflected

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Studying your principles and precepts today could lead to a more fulfilled existence and remove some of the growing stress in your life. Meditate on philosophical matters and gain a clearer perspective.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) It is important that you exercise the greatest care in doing favours for partners, whether in business or personal life, be it concerning monetary or creative affairs.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A bad day for gambling on anything or taking chances. Any civic or public affairs need to be handled very carefully, too, so that you do not risk higher-ups.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get tasks done quickly during the morning and then be kind to those who are helping you. However, don't use an air of bravado.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be on your guard tonight that you don't get into trouble with one who has power over your affairs and well-being.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are fortunate in having a good pal help you with whatever task you have on hand that is difficult to do alone, so do work together.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be alert to credit affairs as well as civic duties during the daytime. It is important that you prove you are a good citizen now.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Much activity is fine now, meeting interesting people, getting close to nature, partaking in sports, etc. Stick to what is of proven worth in the evening.

Dollar loses ground against Deutsche mark and yen

This article is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch — Dubai

Overview

Fundamental View: The dollar lost ground against both the Deutsche mark and the yen this week. Dollar weakness against the mark can be attributed to expectations that Fed tightening will come later than previously expected, and the view that the Bundesbank will not raise official rates at Thursday's council meeting. But we continue to expect a 50 basis point cut in German rates this quarter, and a 25 basis point rise in U.S. rates in the second quarter. As three-month German rates fall from 5.7 per cent to 4.0 per cent in 12 months, we expect the DM to reach DM/1.85. Yen strengthening has been due to increased pessimism regarding prospects for a U.S.-Japan trade agreement. If measures to open Japan's market to imports are unsuccessful, the burden of reducing Japan's huge current account deficit would fall on further yen appreciation. We expect the yen to strengthen to 105 JPY/\$ in 12 months in light of slow progress in correcting Japan's trade imbalance.

Technical View: The U.S. dollar was generally on the defensive during the week ended Jan. 28 as the greenback posted week-to-week losses against four of the six currencies we most regularly discuss. In the end, the dollar index lost 0.2 per cent for the period. At this point, momentum for the index appears to have peaked and sentiment is viewed as being generally overbought. These conditions, together with the inability to penetrate important resistance at 97.50-98.00, imply that an important medium term top — marking the end of the rally from last September's low — may be at hand. Thus, the medium term outlook continues to favour the currencies. Nearby support is just above 94.00, with benchmark support at 90.29.

Deutschmark

Fundamental View: The dollar fell back to DM/\$ 1.73, losing its upward momentum. Dollar weakness can be traced to the view that U.S. interest rates will not be raised as quickly as was previously expected. The resignation of Fed vice chairman David Mullins, who is considered an anti-inflation hawk, may have reinforced this sentiment. The overwhelming view from Germany is that the Bundesbank will not cut the discount rate at Thursday's council meeting. While U.S. and German monetary action may not be imminent, we continue to expect a 50 basis point cut in German rates this quarter, and a 25 basis point rise in the U.S. federal funds rate in the second quarter. News on wage and consumer price inflation in Germany continues to be surprisingly positive, and the U.S. economy appears to have maintained strong momentum in January following fourth quarter growth at a

5.9 per cent annual rate. We continue to look for German 3-month money rates to fall to 4.0 per cent or less by the end of this year compared with 5.7 per cent currently. We maintain our 12-month target of DM/USD 1.85, and expect the dollar to reach the DM/USD 1.80 level in 3 months.

Technical View: The Deutsche mark rallied 0.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar last week. Short term sentiment is near overbought, but the important medium term readings remain oversold. Although short term momentum is in an uptrend, medium term oscillators are still bottoming and have not yet broken their downward trend. That could occur this week. All of this generally bolsters the argument that a currency low is being put into place. Important support remains indicated in the area of 1.755, with resistance at 1.65-1.66. The mark/yen cross moved below 63 last week to the lower end of its multi-month trading range. This potential support is important because, though not oversold, medium term momentum for the cross is evidencing signs of bottoming. Given that both individual currencies are expected to rally versus the U.S. dollar in coming weeks, this bottoming process raises the prospects for potential DM relative strength in a generally firm currency environment.

While 60 remains important support, resistance in the 65.50-66.50 range will be monitored for a potentially important breakout.

Pound Sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound backed down from its six-month high against the Deutsche mark, trading at DM/GBP 2.59. This week's depreciation cannot be traced to any fundamental factors, although data on foreign exchange reserves suggest that the Bank of England may have intervened against the pound. Greater signs of economic strength — continued improvement in the labour market and evidence of buoyant consumer spending — have reduced market expectations of prospects for a cut in base rates. Concern about job security is a major factor inhibiting consumer sentiment, and improved prospects for employment should bolster confidence.

We believe base rates will be cut by 50 basis points later in the second quarter, once the impact of April 1 tax increases is assessed. But rates will decline by much less this year than in Germany, leading to pound appreciation against the DM. We are expecting a rise in the pound to DM/GBP 2.65 in three months and DM/GBP 2.70 at six- and twelve-month horizons.

If the pound rises much beyond the DM/GBP 2.70 level, the Bank of England would be pressured to cut rates to protect the competitiveness of U.K. exporters. Plenty of slack capacity should limit concern of stimulating demand-driven inflation.

The pound was little changed against the dollar this week, trading near U.S./GBP 1.49. We are forecasting pound depreciation

against the dollar to U.S./GBP 1.46 in 12 months as U.S. short-term interest rates rise by 50 to 75 basis points by the end of 1994.

Technical View: The British pound rallied almost 0.3 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Jan. 28 and in the process moved to the top end of its long-standing 1.47-1.51 U.S./\$1 trading range. Sentiment is neutral to near oversold. However, medium term momentum remains constructive.

All in all, our long-standing support/resistance parameters remain unchanged: a break down through \$1.46-\$47 would imply a potential test of important long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42, while a rally through \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of long term resistance at \$1.60. The DM/cross-rate may be peaking. The recent trading range has been accompanied by deteriorating momentum. If this deterioration continues, a decisive break of 2.60 could allow for 2.58, then 2.53-2.55. While 2.68 is still nominally possible, important resistance at 2.62 has to be monitored closely.

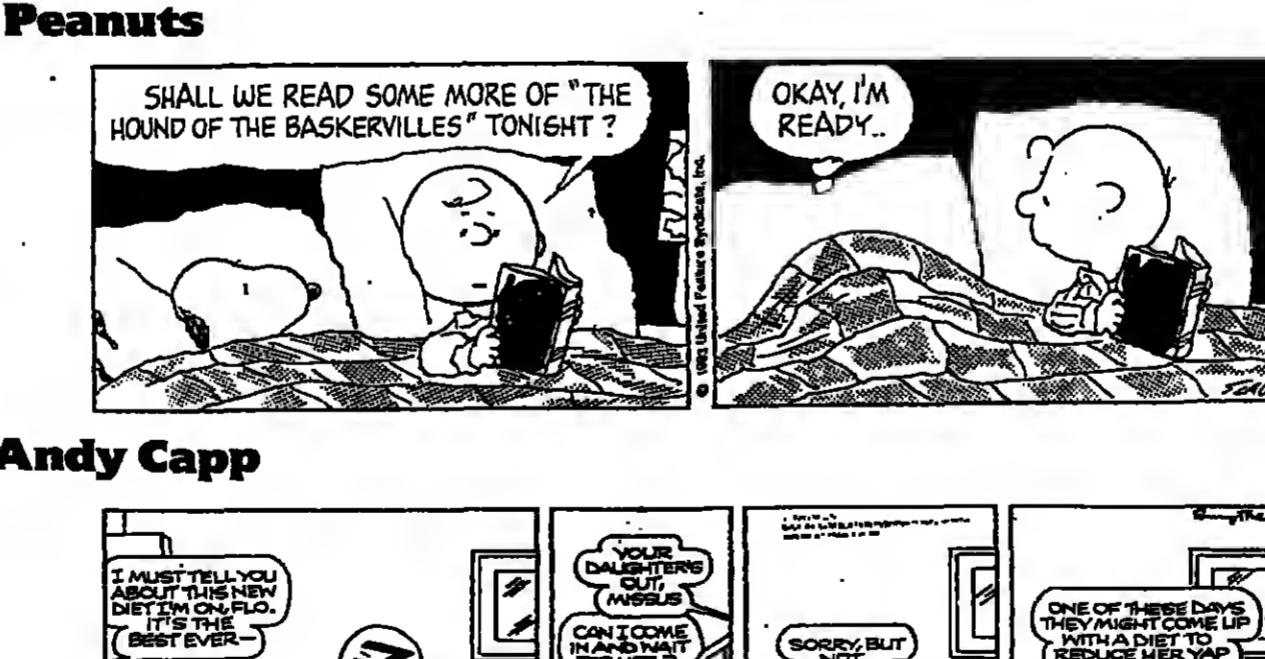
Japanese Yen

Fundamental View: The Japanese yen continued to strengthen against the dollar this week, moving to 108 yen/dollar. The U.S. and Japan have failed to resolve trade differences, and markets have become increasingly pessimistic regarding prospects for an agreement in time. Talks between Mr. Hosokawa and Mr. Clinton, Japan's current account surplus, at \$162 billion in 1993, far above politically acceptable levels. If measures to open Japan's domestic market to imports are unsuccessful, the burden of current account adjustment would fall on further yen appreciation. Friday's compromise between Mr. Hosokawa and the LDP on political reform legislation is another plus for the yen.

Increased political cooperation should lead to a strong fiscal stimulus programme, which would support the stock market and keep bond yields higher than otherwise. The result would be increased capital inflows from abroad. We expect the yen to strengthen further to 105 yen/dollar in 12 months.

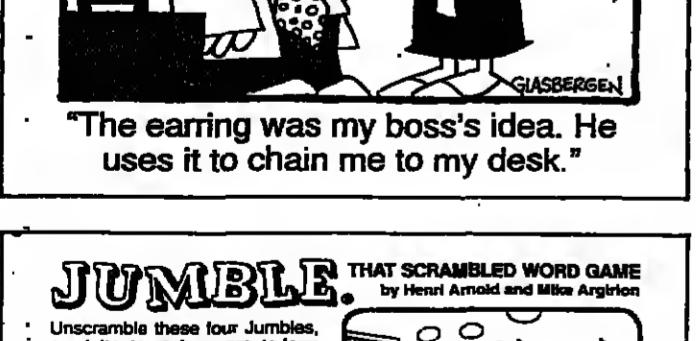
Technical View: The Japanese yen gained 1.4 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week, and was the strongest currency of the six we most regularly monitor. At present, short term sentiment is neutral and medium term readings remain oversold. Short term momentum is upwardly biased, but medium term oscillators are only now bottoming. This evidence, plus the fact that last week's strength was enough to at least temporarily break through the five-month old downtrend channel, suggests that the underlying long term uptrend is reasserting itself. The ability to hold support at 113-114/U.S. 12 also adds substance to this possibility. The rally in recent days through 108 implies continued strength toward 105.50-106.

Andy Capp



Jumble

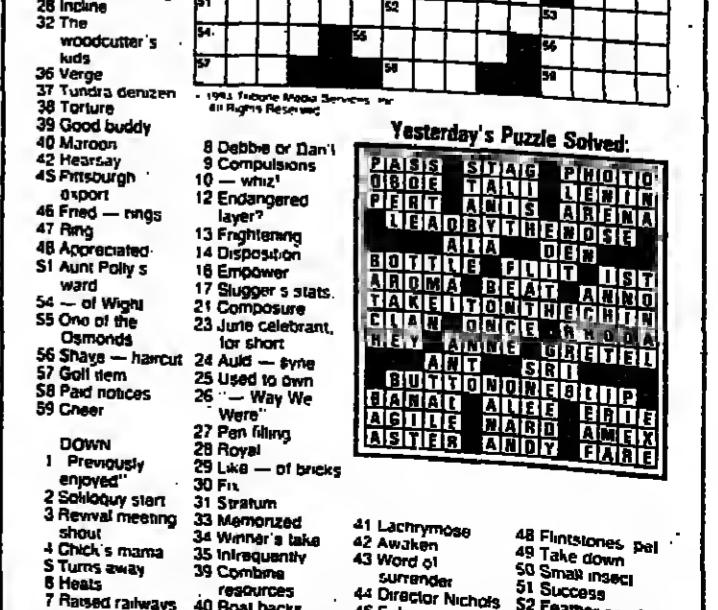
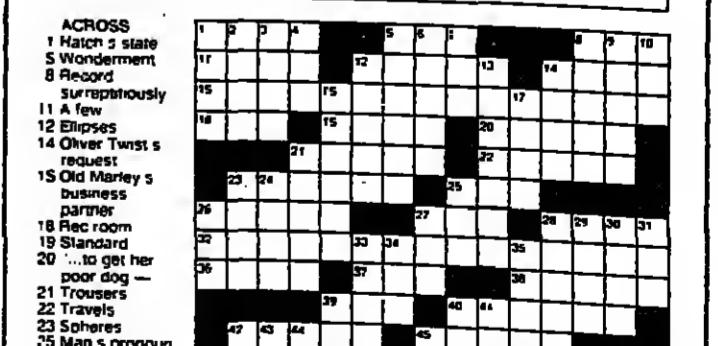
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirov



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.
Answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumble: LOUSE ABOVE BABOON OUTLET
Answer: The French poodle who slipped his leash was called — TOO LOOSE"

THE Daily Crossword

by Norma Steinberg



Ruling party joins ANC in registering for S. African polls

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The governing National Party (NP) increasing concerns that white extremists would use violence to disrupt the all-race vote.

President F.W. de Klerk's party was the fifth to register. The African National Congress, which is expected to sweep the April 26-28 vote, signed up Thursday, making it the first formerly banned opposition group to register.

Smaller parties, including the Liberal Democratic Party that was the official opposition during much of the National Party's four decades in power, have also officially committed themselves to run.

Under South African law, parties have until Saturday to register. But the government said Thursday the deadline could be pushed back, and efforts continued to get conservative blacks and whites to participate in the April vote.

The right-wing Afrikaner Volksfront, which seeks an independent white homeland, said Thursday that it would boycott the vote and work to prevent it from taking place. The Volksfront coalition claims to represent the nation's 3 million Afrikaners — the descendants of early Dutch settlers.

Ferdi Hartzenberg, whose pro-apartheid Conservative

Party is a member of the Volksfront, said whites would rely on peaceful means to resist the vote, but said "a little bit of violence might be necessary for defensive purposes."

Right-wing whites opposed to black majority rule have threatened civil war. They are not considered a major military force, but they could be a serious threat to free, fair and peaceful elections.

A recent series of bombings in rural communities, including some that damaged ANC offices and electricity pylons, have been blamed on white extremists. Violence linked mostly to political feuds among black groups killed more than 3,000 South Africans last year.

Both the government and the ANC have said they want as many factions as possible to participate in the vote. But there seemed little hope Friday the members of the Afrikaner Volksfront would reconsider, or that black conservatives would be persuaded to participate.

Government negotiator Roelf Meyer said Thursday the government remained open to talks, but accused the Freedom Alliance of blocking agreement with new, last-minute demands.

Talks among the government, ANC and the opposition Freedom Alliance deadlocked

this week over the powers of regional governments in a new constitution.

Alliance members, including the Afrikaner Volksfront and conservative black groups such as the Inkatha Freedom Party and Bophuthatswana black homeland, want autonomous regions free of domination by the ANC.

The ANC and the government have rejected setting up any territories on the basis of race.

The Bophuthatswana government, meanwhile, announced its leader Lucas Mangope, held talks Monday with Mr. Mandela and would seek normalise relations with the ANC. No details were available, but the announcement indicated Mr. Mangope might be seeking a deal to drop his opposition to the election.

Analysts believe Mr. Mangope has little popular support in Bophuthatswana, which receives most of its budget from South Africa and could be frozen off if the ANC takes power after the election.

In a separate development, the leader of a black nationalist guerrilla group involved in attacks on whites has been killed in a car accident in Tanzania.

Officials of the militant Pan Africanist Congress

announced Thursday that Sabelo Phama, believed to be in his mid-40s, died after the car he was riding in collided with a truck near Morogoro in central Tanzania Wednesday.

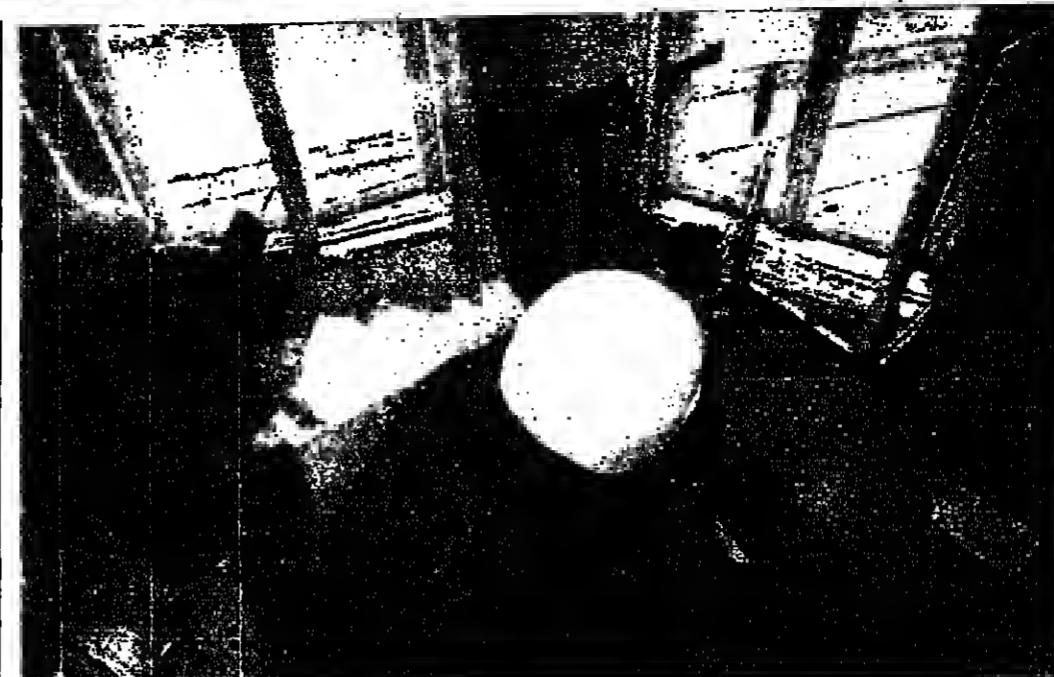
Mr. Phama was commander of the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the PAC, which has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on police and white civilians dating back 14 months.

The PAC wants blacks to rule South Africa and initially opposed negotiations with the white government on ending apartheid. It later joined the talks and plans to contest the nation's first all-race election in April.

Mr. Phama was travelling to Harare, Zimbabwe, in anticipation of returning to South Africa to take part in the election campaign, according to PAC officials.

Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer said the government was going to grant Mr. Phama a temporary amnesty so he could return to South Africa and negotiate an end to PLA violence.

The PAC has agreed to cease hostilities against the government, but some of its leading members protested the move and said attacks would continue.



Two French peacekeepers in Sarajevo, protect a passage against Serb snipers (AFP photo)

France sends carrier, ministers to Bosnia

PARIS (R) — France, one of the driving forces behind NATO's ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs to pull back from Sarajevo, sent an aircraft carrier to former Yugoslavia Friday while two of its top ministers left for the Bosnian capital.

A navy spokesman said the 32,000-tonne carrier Foch, carrying some 20 Super-Etendard fighter-bombers which could be used to strike Serb artillery around Sarajevo, was to sail at 1300 GMT from the Mediterranean port of Toulon.

The 2,600-man naval group, including the missile-firing frigate Suffren and the supply ship La Meuse, could reach the coast of ex-Yugoslavia within 48 hours, the spokesman said.

Underscoring Paris' determination to force a withdrawal of heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Defence Minister Francois Leotard were expected in the Bosnian capital, scene of an outbreak of fighting overnight despite a ceasefire agreement.

In a radio interview from the Croatian capital Zagreb, first leg of a visit to ex-Yugoslavia to press for peace and underline Western resolve, Mr. Juppe

dismissed defiant statements by Bosnian Serb leaders as "oratory gestures."

He said the fresh outbreak of shelling underlined the need for NATO's ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs to pull back their heavy artillery at least 20 kms (12 miles) from Sarajevo within 10 days or face air strikes.

The countdown began at 2400 GMT Thursday.

"That shooting demonstrates why the ultimatum remains more necessary than ever," Mr. Juppe told Europe-1 Radio.

"Once again, one realises ceasefires are just scraps of paper and no tangible results will be obtained unless heavy weapons are withdrawn or placed under the responsibility of the United Nations," Juppe said.

He said Russia's first reaction was not encouraging.

"But I do not believe the Russians have the means to paralyse the U.N. and we will try to convince them that they too must join efforts to bring about peace," he added.

Russia set the stage for a confrontation with the West by calling for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss how to remove heavy weapons from around Sarajevo. Washington has said there was no need for a new U.N. meeting.

Former head of IRA splinter group slain

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Gunmen shot and killed the former head of an Irish Republican Army (IRA) splinter group, a man who once claimed he had killed 30 people.

Speaking to about two dozen politicians and cultural leaders, Mr. Gaidar urged creation of reformist party

MOSCOW (AP) — Yegor Gaidar, the champion of Russia's market reforms, said he wants to create a new political party to avoid a repeat of the defeat of reformers in December's legislative elections.

Asked about the possibility of the United States and North Korea resuming stalled high-level talks to settle the nuclear issue, Mr. Han said there were no immediate plans to do so, Yonhap said.

At a security meeting in Seoul Tuesday, President Kim Young-Sam said South Korea would not abandon efforts to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully even if Pyongyang was pledged to safeguard through regular inspections.

Seoul officials said Mr. Han, who left for Washington Wednesday a week ahead of schedule, and the United States would decide on its course of action to try to persuade North Korea to open its nuclear sites to IAEA inspection.

Asked about the possibility of the United States and North Korea resuming stalled high-level talks to settle the nuclear issue, Mr. Han said there were no immediate plans to do so, Yonhap said.

It has warned it would regard international sanctions as an act of war and finally renounce the non-proliferation treaty which the IAEA is pledged to safeguard through regular inspections.

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